

Distribution of sugar to middle class family

†2907. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to provide sugar on ration cards to those middle class families who fall in the range of income tax ceiling;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Consequent upon reduction in the levy obligation of domestic sugar producers to 15% with effect from 1.2.2001, the Government has restricted the supply of sugar under the Public Distribution System to Below Poverty Line families except in North-Eastern States/Hill States/Island territories, where the earlier arrangement would continue.

Wheat/rice to pilgrims of Kumbha Mela at BPL price

2908. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice allocated and released to the U.P. Government for sale to the pilgrims of the recent Kumbha Mela at Below Poverty Line (BPL) prices; and

(b) whether there was any mechanism set up to monitor that

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the said wheat and rice is distributed genuinely among the poorest pilgrims and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) A quantity of 13,500 tonnes of wheat and 78000 tonnes of rice was allotted to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for Kumbha Mela at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rate. Out of this, Government of Uttar Pradesh has distributed 674 tonnes of wheat (including 654 tonnes of atta) and 611 tonnes of rice in the Kumbha Mela at BPL rates.

(b) Distribution of allotted foodgrains to the pilgrims in the Kumbha Mela was the responsibility of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that it was not possible to categorise the crores of pilgrims into BPL and Above Poverty Line (APL) and the distribution of wheat and rice was done among all the pilgrims without differentiation.

New food and agricultural policy

2909. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a New Year Economic Package for the agriculture sector and constituted a Group of Ministers to formulate a New Food and Agricultural Policy for offering higher returns to the farmers cultivating wheat, paddy and growing more oilseeds and pulses in order to correct the current skewed pattern of farm outputs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the report of GoM is likely to be received and implemented; and

(d) the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION